

What is Claimed is:

1. A Simple Supplementary Services Protocol (SSSP) for encoding Protocol Data Units (PDUs) which are carried via messages over an existing protocol for network communications, comprising:

an identifier field for identifying different functionally based supplementary services;

an end tag field for denoting message endings; and

a parameters extensions field separating said identifier field and said end tag field.

2. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 1, wherein said existing protocol is H.323 and said PDUs are encoded using Alpha Numeric String Encoding and transmitted within a non-standard data field of H.323 messages.

3. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 2, wherein said identifier field contains a PDUName comprising an SSSPTag, ParameterSeperator , PrimitiveName and PDUType.

4. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 3, wherein said SSSPTag is limited to two characters for identifying said messages as being Alpha Numeric String Encoded.

5. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 3, wherein said ParameterSeperator is a comma.

6. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 3, wherein said PrimitiveName is limited to three characters, two of said characters being unique for identifying different classes of said supplementary services.

7. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 3, wherein said PDUType is limited to one character.

8. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 7, wherein said PDUType is one of either "I" for Indication, "Q" for Request, "R" for Response, "C" for Command, "E" for Error.

9. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 1, wherein said parameter extensions field further includes a ParameterSeperator and at least one Parameter.

10. Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 9, wherein said ParameterSeperator is a comma.

11. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 1, wherein said PDUs are encoded using DTMF String Encoding for transmission to non-H.323 devices.

12. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 11, wherein said identifier field contains a Feature Tag and Feature Code.

13. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 12, wherein said Feature Tag is limited to two characters for identifying said messages as being DTMF String Encoded.

14. The Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 12 wherein said Feature Code is limited to six characters for identifying different classes of said supplementary services..

15. Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 11, wherein said parameter extensions field further includes a ParameterSeperator and at least one Parameter.

16. Simple Supplementary Services Protocol of claim 15, wherein said ParameterSeperator is an asterisk.

17. A user interface for displaying information at an Endpoint, said information relating to a Simple Supplementary Services Protocol (SSSP) and carried via messages over an existing protocol for network communications, comprising a Feature Display for display of supplementary feature information relating to said SSSP, a Default Display for display of non-SSSP related display information, and a simple state machine for alternating between foreground and background representations of said Feature Display and Default Display responsive to receipt of predetermined ones of said messages at said Endpoint.

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